

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 /045 W

----- 097258

R 171754Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1342

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 18488

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR RO

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT ROMANIA

JULY 24-28

1. FRENCH PRIME MINISTER JACQUES CHIRAC WILL MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT TO ROMANIA JULY 24-28. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY NORBERT SEGARD, MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL COMMERCE' AND BY BERNARD DESTREMAU, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER ASKED YVON OMNES, FOREIGN MINISTRY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, TO PROVIDE ADVANCE VIEW OF THE VISIT. OMNES SAID CHIRAC VISIT FALLS INTO CATEGORY OF "IMPROVING RELATIONS." IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT ANY SPECIFIC RESULTS WILL COME OUT OF THE VISIT AS FAR AS POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OR CULTURAL RELATIONS ARE CONCERNED. OMNES SAID THAT ROMANIANS HAVE BEEN DISSATISFIED WITH THEIR RELATIONS WITH FRANCE BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN VIRTUALLY NONEXISTENT. THEY FEEL NEGLECTED. THERE HAS NOT BEEN A VISIT AT THE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL SINCE 1970 WHEN CEAUCESCU VISITED FRANCE. OMNES SAID THE ROMANIANS ARE PRESSING FOR ECONOMIC BENEFITS, BUT FRENCH HAVE REPLIED THAT TRADE

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AGREEMENTS ARE NOW NEGOTIATED BY EC-9 COMMISSION IN

BRUSSELS. THE FRENCH EXPECT TO RECEIVE APPEAL FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE, BUT HAVE NOT YET DECIDED ON RESPONSE. OMNES SAID THAT EXTERNAL COMMERCE MINISTER SEGARD IS GOING ALONG TO LOOK FOR BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR FRENCH PRIVATE SECTOR. FRANCO-ROMANIAN TRADE HAS INCREASED IN RECENT YEARS, BUT NOT NEARLY AT THE PACE OF FRENCH TRADE WITH OTHER EASTERN EUROPEANS, ESPECIALLY YUGOSLAVIA AND POLAND.

3. ROMANIAN DCM'S PREVIEW OF CHIRAC VISIT IS THE SAME AS FOREGOING WITH ADDITION THAT TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL MARK THE OCCASION BY SIGNING A TEN-YEAR "COOPERATION" AGREEMENT. ROMANIAN DCM SAID AGREEMENT WILL BE NOTHING MORE THAN A FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT WITH SPECIFIC ACCORDS TO BE WORKED OUT LATER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS18488
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750248-0190
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750747/aaaabpnh.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT ROMANIA JULY 24-28
TAGS: PFOR, FR, RO, (CHIRAC, JACQUES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006